



Important Meeting — Exclusively for Members

The next meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific, which is to be held on Thursday, January 13th, is for members only. In addition to the election of officers for 1944, many important matters of policy will be discussed. Each month brings the reality of war closer to the lives of all of us, and the time has come to decide how much effort our membership can devote to the study and protection of birds and the maintenance of the status quo of the Association. It has been suggested that meetings and field trips be held less frequently, perhaps quarterly, and THE GULL be published at corresponding intervals. Expressions of opinion of the membership are vital at this time.

PLEASE ATTEND THIS MOST IMPORTANT MEETING AND URGE ALL OTHER MEMBERS TO ATTEND. CHANGES WILL BE MADE. YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A VOTE AS TO WHAT COURSE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE ASSOCIATION DURING THE FUTURE MONTHS OF THE WAR.



Christmas Bird Census, San Francisco, 1943

San Francisco, Calif. (Fisherman's Wharf, Marina, Ocean Beach, Golden Gate Park, Lake Merced, Bay View Park, Sutro Heights, Laurel Hill, Hunter's Point, Lincoln Park, and Fine Arts Pool; ocean beach 10%, bay shore (with salt marsh and mud flats) 10%, park 60%, fresh water pond and marsh 10%, open fields 5%, chaparral 5%). Dec. 19. Cloudy, occasional light rain and fog; temp. -50°F.; wind SW, 8-12 m.p.h. Thirteen observers in eight parties. Total hours, 52 (49½ on foot, 2½ by car); total miles, 56 (32 on foot, 24 by car). Pacific Loon, 1; Red-throated Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 1; Eared Grebe, 41; Western Grebe, 40; Pied-billed Grebe, 23; Brown Pelican, 11; Double-crested Cormorant, 12; Brandt's Cormorant, 9; Great Blue Heron, 2; American Egret, 6; Black-crowned Night Heron, 3; American Bittern, 1; Hutchin's Goose, 2; Cackling Goose, 1; Ross's Goose, 1; Mallard, 921; Gadwall, 5; Baldpate, 212; Pintail, 20; Green-winged Teal, 3; Shoveler, 23; Wood Duck, 1; Redhead, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 412; Canvasback, 349; Scaup, 32; Buffle-head, 1; Surf Scoter, 1; Ruddy Duck, 137; American Merganser, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 4; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 7; California Quail, 146; Virginia Rail, 1; Sora, 1; Florida Gallinule, 1; American Coot, 1759; Killdeer, 106; Black-bellied Plover, 86; Surf-bird, 4; Ruddy Turnstone, 2; Black Turnstone, 18; Wilson's Snipe, 3; Willet, 2000; Least Sandpiper, 50; Dowitcher, 120; Western Sandpiper, 100; Marbled Godwit, 8; Sanderling, 448; Glaucous-winged Gull, 344; Western Gull, 736; Herring Gull, 66; California Gull, 1045; Ring-billed Gull, 40; Short-billed Gull, 303; Bonaparte's Gull, 182;

Forster's Tern, 1; Burrowing Owl, 1; Anna's Hummingbird, 104; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Red-shafted Flicker, 24; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Black Phoebe, 39; Say's Phoebe, 1; California Jay, 5; Raven, 4; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 61; Bush-tit, 18; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 2; Wren-tit, 2; Winter Wren, 1; Bewick's Wren, 5; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Robin, 58; Varied Thrush, 3; Hermit Thrush, 37; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 13; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 67; American Pipit, 36; California Shrike, 4; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Audubon's Warbler, 292; Townsend's Warbler, 5; Yellow-throat, 12; House Sparrow, 133; Western Meadowlark, 66; Brewer's Blackbird, 329; Purple Finch, 8; House Finch, 84; Pine Siskin, 203; Willow Goldfinch, 1; Green-backed Goldfinch, 10; Spotted Towhee, 23; Brown Towhee, 2; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Oregon Junco, 171; White-crowned Sparrow, 779; Golden-crowned Sparrow, 217; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Fox Sparrow, 71; Song Sparrow, 72.

Total, 107 species and subspecies; approximately 12840 individuals.

—Enid Austin, Donald Brock, Charles Bryant, Donald Ermann, Warren Fischer, Malcolm Jollie, Junea Kelley, Joan Kirk, H. V. Leffler, A. H. Myer, Roger Peterson, Ethel Richardson, R. W. Storer (Audubon Association of the Pacific).



December Field Trip

The twenty-sixth annual census of water birds at Lake Merritt, Oakland, was taken on December 12th. The weather was perfect, after one of the severest wind storms ever recorded in this vicinity had caused much destruction on December 8th and 9th. It is regrettable that a Kingfisher which had been seen recently did not put in an appearance and also that the Snowy Egret seen in September and October is no longer at the lake.

Twenty-six species of water birds were seen.

Red-throated Loon 1; Horned Grebe 1; Eared Grebe 52; Western Grebe 6; Pied-billed Grebe 17; Farallon Cormorant 3; American Egret 2; Black-crowned Night Heron 19 (probably many more were hidden on the Island); Lesser Snow Goose 1 (immature, had arrived on Dec. 11th according to park attendant); Mallard 49 (12 male, 37 female); Baldpate 337 (183 male, 154 female); Pintail 2969 (1510 male, 1459 female); Shoveler 6; Wood Duck 5; Canvas-back 97; Scaup 39; American Golden-eye 68; Ruddy 112; Coot 461; Killdeer 1; Spotted Sandpiper 1; Glaucous-winged Gull 43; California Gull 50; Ringed-billed Gull 55; Bonaparte Gull 88; Forster Tern 1; Pinioned Geese: Canada 3; Cackling 3; White-fronted 2; Lesser Snow 3.

Twenty-four species of land birds were seen:

Red-shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, California Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, Wren-tit, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Audubon Warbler, House Sparrow, Meadow Lark, Brewer Black Bird, California Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Fourteen members and five guests were present. Members attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Kilham, Mesdames Austin, Bozant, Kelly, Wallace; Misses Cohen, Elwonger, Kirk, MacIver, Stanton; Messrs. Fischer, Leffler, Myer.

—Junea W. Kelly, Historian

Birds on a Mountain Lookout

By RUTH ELWONGER

"The "Needles", on which I was stationed during September and October this year, is a fire lookout in Sequoia National Forest. Eighty-two hundred feet high, it overlooks the valley of the Kern River, meadows, and forested ridges and mountains. The lookout itself is perched on a single rock at the top of precipitous cliffs, over which climb 189 steps. It is isolated, for it is located two miles from the end of the nearest mountain road and eight miles air-line from the nearest neighbor, Jordan Lookout.

Throughout my stay, my interest in natural history gave me the greatest pleasure. Of the birds which flew past or about the lookout, most conspicuous were White-throated Swifts and Violet-green Swallows. These would suddenly appear as from nowhere about 4:30 on fine afternoons. The swallows would, for the most part, keep to a lower level than the swifts, swirling like midges in a loose flock over the trees far below. But the swifts preferred the higher air and the wind about the rocky peaks. Frequently standing outside I could hear the whir of their wings as they nose-dived past. Their swoops were wilder, their evolutions even more dizzy than those of the swallows.

In the warm sunlight of the September afternoons, two Red-tailed Hawks would sail by, so near that I could see the details of their talons and beaks. High over the Kern Valley they would renew (although spring had long passed) their courting behavior, the male plunging downward toward the female which turned toward him with talons upward.

One afternoon a pair of huge black birds, Ravens, I suppose, soared past, one following the other like a shadow on the rock, as they reached the face of East Needles Peak and rose slowly upward until they disappeared.

There were other birds to be seen below the lookout. Among these were Mountain Chickadees, Juncos, Crested Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, and flocks of Audubon Warblers among the sprays of the red fire. (Each spray at that time of the year was edged with crinkly, light-colored fringes of new growth.)

Among the rocks of the peak on which I lived also lived a Rock Wren and a Cañon Wren. The Rock Wren, which kept to the east of the cliffs, I did not see after September 21, but the Cañon Wren, which preferred the west face, remained as long as I did. His querulous note was the most familiar sound about the lookout. I never tired of watching him as he flitted about the crevices. He was more like an example of perpetual motion than even the chipmunks, with which he was so closely associated. He was most vociferous on frosty mornings and in the evening after the sun had set, leaving the rocks dark and utterly cheerless except for his presence.



Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

The following observations have been reported:

Since Red-winged Blackbirds and Snowy Egrets are not often seen at Lake Merritt it seems advisable to record the following dates: Red-winged Blackbirds, Aug. 13, 19, 23, 30; Sept. 3, 11, Oct. 2; Snowy Egret, Sept. 11, Oct. 15; Herman V. Leffler. Snowy Egret, Nov. 3, Lake Merritt, Junea W. Kelly.

American Egret, Oct. 31; Wilson Snipe, Dec. 5, Lake Temescal; Herman V. Leffler.

Audubon Notes

January Meeting: Important. The 27th annual and the 315th regular meeting will be held Thursday, January 13th at 7:30, in the Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets. Annual reports will be read, officers and directors for the coming year will be elected.

The nominating committee: Mrs. Kibbe, Miss Blake and Miss Fay will present their slate at this time. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

January Field Trip will be Sunday the 15th to the University of California campus and Strawberry Canyon. Members and guests will meet at Shattuck and University Avenue, Berkeley, at 9:30 a.m. San Francisco members will take the "F" train, San Francisco Terminal at 8:15 and get off at University.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Myer, 25 El Camino Real, Berkeley have again extended their cordial invitation to members of the field trip to bring lunches and enjoy the noonday repast under their hospitable roof. Hot coffee will be served.

Mr. Myer will be the leader of the field trip.

December Meeting: The 315th meeting was held on the 9th in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library, President Mrs. Harold C. Austin

presiding. Mrs. Junea W. Kelly gave an illuminating lecture on "Bird Migration", with her usual clarity and enthusiasm. Mrs. Kelly recommended that members send for the U. S. Agricultural Dept. Circular No. 363, Oct.-1933, "Migration of North American Birds" by Frederick C. Lincoln, writing to the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., and enclosing ten cents. Mrs. Kelly spoke of the amusing and erroneous ideas regarding migration which were given in the old days; for example, the belief that swallows buried themselves in the mud in winter. She discussed the migration of warblers, swallows, vireos, sparrows, flycatchers and shorebirds, telling the chronological order of their customary spring arrival in the Bay area. To see newly arrived warblers, Mrs. Kelly recommended Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley, on the day after a rain in the middle of May.

Why The Gull is late: The Post Office Department has become strict regarding zone numbers. They set aside second and third class mail which lacks zone numbers until it suits their convenience to deliver it. Unless you want your copy of The Gull to arrive late, please send your zone number in January with your remittance for 1944 dues.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mrs. Harold C. Austin.....	541 Boulevard Way, Piedmont 10
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco 4
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Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 p.m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.